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Transfiguration of a Bachelor's Hall
From the Christian Advocate.

On the second floor of the Advocate's new home are numerous, spacious and very elegant editorial, social and rest rooms, through which our many friends feel free to enter, stroll, rest, read or write sans ceremony. Recently some of our strolling friends have been astonished, if not dazed, by the bachelor's home lying around in such a miscellaneous and matter of fact sort of way, ladies' journals and magazines, sheet music, samplings, lace, ribbons, embroidered Christmas and souvenir postal cards, flowers, boxes of candy, and the air vibrant with music and redolent with perfume! To avoid embarrassment at the next meeting of the Southwest Missouri Conference, the editor arises to explain.

On the morning of December 19th, Central College for Women at Lexington, Missouri, adjourned for a two weeks' vacation of Christmas holidays. For two of the Virginia students in this college to go all the way to their homes and return, would have involved their traveling nearly three thousand miles, so they were persuaded to stop off in St. Louis and spend Christmas with their editor uncle, to his great delight.

When these girls passed through St. Louis in September, they were elegantly and delightfully, dined in the home of Rev. Josephus Stephan, whose wife does her own cooking, with such grace, elegance and ease as to convince the young Virginians that such scientific and skillful housekeeping was really a fine art to be enjoyed rather than dreaded. So when they arrived for their holidays in St. Louis, Mrs. Stephan very kindly chaperoned them through a downtown whirl of a busy day's shopping, during which she selected the goods and later cut and made two beautiful, stylish or "swell" cook aprons. When Mrs. Doctor C. C. Woods went to Florida she left a Singer sewing machine, a dining room and a gas cook stove. The girls never looked more beautiful than when they put on their magnificent new aprons, ordered their marketing through the telephone, lighted the gas in the cook stove and determined to learn Mrs. Stephan's classical and charming accomplishment.

Of course these nieces might have had some conscientious scruples or trepidation in thus beginning on ordinary mortals, but with an old bachelor uncle who had survived the food and cooking of all climes and continents, they experimented with impunity without any seeming fear of killing him. Our many-sided and splendid hearted layman, Brother A. E. Whitaker, the general manager of the popular

French Piano Company, loaned them one of their fine pianos for vacation or Christmas uses. So with the cook stove, the Singer sewing machine, the piano and the vivacious voices of the lasses there was music in the air, a unique and extraordinary accompaniment by which to do editorial work. If our sober readers found anything too hilarious in the columns of the Advocate during the Christmas weeks they will know how to account for it and how to sympathize with and apologize for us.

We are greatly indebted to our good friends, Mrs. J. R. A. Vaughan, Mrs. Wagoner, Mrs. M. D. Lewis, Miss Elizabeth Hall, Miss Clair Berry, Miss Natalie Lucecock and the Misses Donaldsons for the elegant entertainments and dinings given to our nieces.

The remarkable progress made in the two weeks' experiment in the culinary art on the part of these students determined us more than to have a School of Domestic Science, including the chemistry of the kitchen, the hygiene of the home and the art of home-making in Central College for Women. Here is a golden opportunity for some man or woman of wealth to build for themselves an enduring monument in thus becoming a benefactor not only to the present but of future generations. We shall ask President Gibson to figure out the cost for plant and material equipment, and also the amount of endowment necessary to pay the annual salary of an up-to-date and first class director of such a school. We suggest that the members of the alumni in and about the city of St. Louis take up this work and enlist our friends who have money to thus invest for the future welfare of humanity and the glory of God. One of the greatest needs of the world today is the scientific care of our bodies and our homes as well as the final salvation of our souls.

The New Legislative Quarters.

The committee on redecorating and furnishing the hall of representatives of the state of Missouri didn't have a bit of trouble extracting \$45,000.00 from the state treasury to pay for the taste which they have displayed in their work. They did it too, in the face of a howling deficit in the treasury which denies even the teachers in state schools a cent of salary since last August.

Wallace Crossley, one of the committee which did this hall decorating job, reports:

"The hall of the house of representatives at the capitol has been completed and is being admired by all who visit the capitol. The new gallery of the house is in itself a distinct triumph. The seating capacity of the house has been

greatly enlarged, and the furnishing has been done on an elaborate scale. The hall now stands as the finest in the state, and it is claimed that there is no finer in the United States. Those who are familiar with the house of congress at Washington, D. C., say that it will not at all compare with the Missouri house of representatives. Even Dr. Tubbs, the "great economizer," declared: "It only cost \$45,000 and it is certainly worth the money."

That hall must be a dinger, and it would pay every taxpayer to take a trip to Jefferson City and see how good the legislature looks and how wise they ought to be in such luxurious surroundings. It is safe to relate that nine-tenths of the solons are surrounded by more comforts in that new hall than they are accustomed to in their daily habitations. If the beauties of the hall set their wisdom corks to bobbing, the people may be able to realize on the investment.

The legislature will look good—whether it is good, or not.—Warrensburg Journal-Democrat.

STOP MARGIN GAMBLING

Most Legislation Has Been Impracticable—Too Severe or Too Elastic—But Sensible Measures Can Be Enforced.

"If you prevent, or even restrict the selling short of stocks, you will manifestly, and in equal degree, restrain gambling on the long side of the market," says Frederick S. Dickson, in "The Poison of the Street," in Everybody's Magazine for February. "Let the law then compel him who would sell short to describe in writing and with particularity the thing that he would sell. If it is stock, let him give the number of the certificates, and state in whose names they are registered, and let him also aver that he is the rightful owner of the stock which he offers for sale. Punish him if he states that which is false, and punish also the broker who accepts an order that does not comply with these conditions. The same course can also be pursued in sales of wheat, corn, oats, cotton, pork, and the like commodities, and he who would sell them should be able to state where the thing sold is stored, and what markings there may be on barrel, bale, bin or car-lot. What hardship would this work on the man who simply wishes to sell for future delivery that which he owns? And why should the law be tender to him who strives to sell what he does not own, to the injury of the real owner?"

"Most of the legislation that has been proposed for the regulation of stock-gambling evils contains only general prohibitions against margin trading. Buying more stock than one has the money to pay for is no more an evil than buying real estate subject to mortgage, or borrowing money for the extension of a manufacturing plant or the development of a railroad. If a man, therefore, wishes to buy stock or commodities of any kind and pay but a portion of the cost, the law should not interfere with him. The evil of stock speculation, as now indulged in, grows out of the fact that the gambler is able to borrow more than the real loan value of the stock, the excess being furnished by an broker out of capital as an encouragement to gambling. The control of the loan end of the collateral remains wholly in the broker, who uses both as if he were the sole party in interest. Let the law then, while in general prohibiting margin trading also in particular prohibit the broker from lending any additional sum beyond the bank loan, and insist

that the broker shall inform his customer of the number and description of the certificates which he has bought, the amount of the loan, and the name of the bank where the loan is placed. Make it clear also that the ownership of the stock is wholly in the customer, and that it will be grand larceny for the broker to use this collateral for his own advantage. Such provisions as these would make the prohibition against trading instantly effectual, and nothing short of this would."

Capt. Belt Writes of North and South.
Warrensburg Journal-Democrat.

The J.—D. is in receipt of a letter this week from Capt. M. L. Belt of Higginsville, which indicates that his proposition to build a north and south railroad is not a dead one by any means. Capt. Belt believes in his proposition and he also believes now that he has the capital in sight to handle it. The following portion of his letter relates to it:

Higginsville, Mo., Jan. 13, 1909.
Mr. W. C. Kapp, Warrensburg, Mo.

Dear Sir:—I have been hard at work on my railroad matter, and have been fully convinced that I should, for a great many reasons, build an electric railroad instead of steam, so I am forming a company with a large capital stock to build an electric railroad from Lexington via Higginsville to Warrensburg, as I suppose your people are still anxious to help out a road of that kind. Lexington and Higginsville are a unit for the road and are willing to help in a substantial way. I have this matter well in hand with St. Louis people and hope to push the matter to an early completion. If your contemplated road is built from the south to Kansas City, ours would be of great help to that scheme.

Yours truly,
M. L. BELT.

When the office of State Highway Engineer was created it was generally believed to be a long step in the direction of better roads in Missouri. If the office has been of the slightest benefit to the State or to any portion of it, we have yet to learn of it.—Glasgow Missourian.



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